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ANTARCTIC. 28 Feb.—It was announced that Chile had temporarily abandoned the idea of establishing a third base.

ARGENTINA. 18 Feb.—Withdrawal from International Wheat Conference (*see International Wheat Conference*).

20 Feb.—President Peron speaking in Buenos Aires denied reports that the country was bankrupt and said that the economic situation was as sound as ever. Referring to the possibility of seeking a foreign loan he said he would shoot himself before signing away Argentine independence.

22 Feb.—President Peron, speaking at a dinner given by the Railwaymen's Union, described his opponents as (1) domestic politicians such as Radicals and Conservatives; (2) economic adversaries represented by international capitalism and oligarchy; (3) Communists and Socialists. He indicated that it might soon be necessary to strike a blow at them.

Trade negotiations began with a British delegation.

24 Feb.—The printers' strike was broken by the publication of two newspapers.

The President was believed to have appointed Gen. Molina, Minister of War, head of the new Department of National Defence.

AUSTRALIA. 2 Mar.—Mr Chifley, Prime Minister, announced that Mr Justice Reed had been appointed Commonwealth Director-General of Security and had been given a year's leave of absence from the South Australian Supreme Court in order to organize an extended security service.

AUSTRIA. 17 Feb.—*Peace Treaty.* The Government announced that they would not agree to the establishment of an autonomous Slovene Zone in Carinthia. Discussions in London (*see Council of Foreign Ministers*).

BOLIVIA. 19 Feb.—The Government announced the discovery of a Nationalist plot to overthrow President Hertzog. The conspirators, who were alleged to be followers of the ex-President Villaroel, were said to be working with the connivance of the Government of Peru.

21 Feb.—The Cabinet offered its resignation to the President.

22 Feb.—Peruvian denial of complicity in the plot (*see Peru*).

BRAZIL. 23 Feb.—The Chamber of Deputies approved the Salte plan.

BULGARIA. 20 Feb.—In a 'confession' published in the press, Pastor Ziapkov, head of the Congregational Church and one of the accused (*see p. 99*) stated that he had given secret information to British and U.S. officials including Mr Black, Secretary of the former U.S. Mission, and Mr Andrews, of the British Legation, from 1944 onwards. He had also been in touch with M. Petkov, who was executed for treason in 1947.

21 Feb.—A Note from the U.S. Government protesting against the arrests, which were a 'blatant terroristic effort' to intimidate religious

denominations, was rejected. Foreign Office denial of espionage (*see Great Britain*).

22 Feb.—The press published a 'confession' by Pastor Chernev, leader of the Pentecostal Church, in which he stated that he had also handed political and economic information to Mr Black.

23 Feb.—The text of alleged secret orders from Communist headquarters in Sofia which were responsible for the persecution of evangelical pastors from January 1948 onwards was published by the British Council of Churches in London. The orders referred to 'the growing strength of the Evangelical Church, closely connected with the mad activities of the imperialists inciting a new war'.

24 Feb.—The deputy Minister of Justice, M. Timev, showed to press correspondents the reports of the preliminary investigations of the fifteen pastors which contained mass pleas of guilt and repentance.

25 Feb.—The trial opened with confessions of guilt by Pastor Noumov, President of the Supreme Evangelical Council, and Pastor Ivanov, Supreme Supervisor of the Methodist Church, both of whom referred repeatedly to alleged espionage activity by Mr Black, who by July 1945 had 'paid out 160,000 levas for information'. Pastor Noumov, who said that he had been well treated in prison, professed his new allegiance to the Communist cause and Pastor Ivanov said he had been mistaken in believing that Communism would act against religion. An observer from the British and from the U.S.A. Legations attended the trial.

26 Feb.—Pastor Ziapkov pleaded guilty to all the charges against him and said he had sold himself to a foreign Power and allowed his Church to be turned into a spy's nest. He repeated the statements made in his 'confession' and added that while the British knew he was working for the U.S.A., the Americans were unaware that he was giving information to the British. He was now a 'prodigal son, returning to his people'.

28 Feb.—Confessions of guilt were made by five more of the fifteen pastors.

1 Mar.—Six more of the accused pleaded guilty. A seventh denied the espionage charges, but pleaded guilty to black market currency dealings. One of the defendants said he was grateful to the security police for their patient and merciful treatment.

2 Mar.—After hearing thirty of the witnesses called by the prosecution the President of the court announced that the remaining forty-two would not be heard as the prosecution considered that their case was proved. Mr Andrews' denial of charges (*see Great Britain*).

BURMA. 20 Feb.—The Government announced that Karen and Communist rebels had entered Yamethin on the Mandalay railway about 275 miles north of Rangoon.

The regional autonomy committee set up by the Government was believed to have reached unanimous agreement on the formation of a separate Karen State within the union of Burma.

21 Feb.—A Government statement said that combined forces of Karen and Communist rebels had occupied Pyinmana, Yamethin, and

BURMA (*continued*)

Meiktila in central Burma. Rebels were reported to be advancing northwards towards Mandalay. Another force overran the airstrip at Anisakan north-east of Mandalay and captured two aircraft. Government aircraft bombed Karen positions in Insein and the Army was believed to have captured more positions in the town.

22 Feb.—It was announced in Rangoon that a combined force of Karens and Communists were fighting in Maymyo, forty miles north-east of Mandalay.

23 Feb.—The Government announced that the rebels advancing on Mandalay had occupied Myingyan and Maymyo. British women and children were evacuated from the threatened oilfields at Chauk and Yenangyaung. The Government claimed that a Communist attack on the rice port of Akyab had been repulsed.

25 Feb.—The Government announced the recapture of Maymyo and Myingyan. Fighting was proceeding at Myitnge, ten miles south of Mandalay. Troops and members of the People's Volunteer Organization had been called in to defend Yenangyaung.

27 Feb.—It was announced that Government troops with reinforcements from the Shan States had attacked the rebels at Meiktila and Thazi. Eighty Karens had been killed in a clash near Maubin, between Rangoon and Bassein.

Thakin Nu, Prime Minister, speaking at a rally of the Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League, said that the insurrection had cost the Exchequer about 250 million rupees and had reduced the country to abject poverty. He appealed for an end of 'terrorist activities'.

28 Feb.—British and Dominion consultations in Delhi (*see India*).

It was announced that Government troops were pursuing rebel forces fleeing in disorder from Myitnge.

CANADA. **22 Feb.**—Sir Stafford Cripps on Anglo-Canadian Trade (*see Great Britain*).

27 Feb.—It was announced that Gen. Norkenskioeld, chief of the Swedish Air Force, had arrived in Ottawa for an inspection of R.C.A.F. stations.

CHILE. **28 Feb.**—Third Antarctic base not to be established (*see Antarctic*).

CHINA. **20 Feb.**—Gen. Li Tsung-jen, the acting President, arrived in Canton on a 'tour of inspection'.

21 Feb.—Gen. Li Tsung-jen speaking in Canton called for the unity of the whole country in the drive for peace and also for a revival of the Kuomintang revolutionary spirit.

22 Feb.—Gen. Li Tsung-jen was reported to have said in Canton that any Communist attempts to cross the Yangtze or to launch further attacks would end the Government's endeavours for a negotiated peace. He left later for a tour in the south.

The Communists were believed to have declared Peking the seat of

the 'North China People's Government' and of the 'Parliament' which had previously met at Shihchiachwang.

23 Feb.—Port Wuchow in Kwangsi province was re-opened for foreign trade.

24 Feb.—Economic reforms announced by the Government included provision for a free market in silver and gold; control through the Central Bank of foreign exchange derived from exports, and taxation of commodities at production centres.

25 Feb.—It was learned that Gen. Li Tsung-jen had returned to Nanking. A member of his staff said that during his tour he had won the support of all the local authorities he had met for an agreement with the Communists.

28 Feb.—Dr Sun Fo returned to Nanking.

1 Mar.—The crew of the warship *Chungking* were reported to have deserted with their ship to the Communists.

COSTA RICA. 21 Feb.—Pact of friendship with Nicaragua signed (*see United States*).

COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS. 17 Feb.—*Austrian Treaty.* In discussion on the Soviet claim for compensation for German assets M. Zarubin (U.S.S.R.) reaffirmed that his Government would not accept less than \$150 million in currency. The French deputy stated that the figure of \$100 million which the western deputies had agreed on as a maximum might be raised, subject to a reasonable settlement of the Soviet oil and shipping claims, if payment could be made in goods and services. M. Zarubin refused. Austrian Government statement on Carinthia (*see Austria*).

23 Feb.—*Austrian Treaty.* The deputies finished a preliminary review of the disputed articles.

24 Feb.—*Austrian Treaty.* M. Bebler, deputy Foreign Minister of Yugoslavia, put forward somewhat modified claims against Austria, including proposals for frontier rectifications on the basis of a compromise and a suggestion that Slovene Corinthia should be made a separate Austrian province with political, economic, and cultural autonomy. In place of a fixed sum of \$150 million he asked for 'substantial reparations'. He refused to go into details of the plan before obtaining its acceptance in principle.

28 Feb.—*Austrian Treaty.* Dr Gruber, Austrian Foreign Minister, rejected all M. Bebler's proposals and declared categorically that his Government would not ratify a treaty which did not maintain the inviolability of the Austrian frontiers. He said, however, that if Yugoslavia insisted on some kind of international protection for the Slovene-speaking minority his Government might agree to the incorporation in the treaty of the guarantee contained in the Austrian constitution. They would also be ready to consider the expansion of trade relations with Yugoslavia. Consideration was being given to Yugoslav complaints about the operation of two power stations on the river Drava. A pamphlet on 'the Carinthian question' which was issued with the approval of

COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS (*continued*)

the Yugoslav Embassy proposed that three districts in Carinthia, south of the Drava, should be ceded to Yugoslavia.

1 Mar.—*Austrian Treaty*. M. Bebler asserted that Dr Gruber had shown no desire for conciliation and said that he must insist on the 'compromise proposals'. Unless the principle of frontier rectification were accepted further negotiations were useless. Dr Gruber said in reply that he had nothing to add to his statement.

2 Mar.—*Austrian Treaty*. M. Zarubin supported the Yugoslav claims. The western deputies, while supporting the Austrian view, declared that they were willing to consider means of giving additional protection to the Slovenes in Corinthia, short of granting them a special régime. It was agreed that ethnical details of the problem should be studied.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA. 17 Feb.—Negotiations began between a special committee of the National Front and representatives of the Catholic Church.

It was announced that a Note had been sent to the Yugoslav Government stating that their protest at not being invited to join the Economic Council (*see p. 127*) was unjustified in view of their hostile attitude.

18 Feb.—The Government received a Note from the U.S. Government protesting against their action in detaining without trial two U.S. soldiers who had crossed the frontier from Germany in December, and in failing to give a satisfactory reply to previous representations.

22 Feb.—M. Zapotocky, Prime Minister, broadcasting on the occasion of the first anniversary of the Communist revolution said that the organizers of the 'putsch' which the Communists had forestalled were Dr Zenkl, a former Socialist deputy Premier, Dr Drtina, a former Socialist Minister of Justice, Monsignor Sramek, former Catholic Vice-President, and Dr Lettrich, former President of the Slovak National Assembly.

The National Assembly approved a law reorganizing the Army's officer corps to provide new opportunities for the promotion of other ranks. Another Bill was approved depriving of their rank officers and N.C.O.s who had collaborated with the Nazis or who had been convicted for offences against the régime.

1 Mar.—Trade agreement with Yugoslavia (*see Yugoslavia*).

DENMARK. 17 Feb.—Prime Minister in Oslo (*see Norway*).

20 Feb.—M. Hedtoft, Prime Minister, said in a speech in Copenhagen that the Norwegian Labour Party's decision to support the North Atlantic Pact created a new situation which would need consideration.

23 Feb.—*North Atlantic Defence*. M. Hedtoft, Prime Minister, reported to the Parliamentary foreign policy committee on the recent discussions in Oslo. He later told a press correspondent that there had been three possibilities for Denmark after the collapse of the Nordic negotiations: (1) a Danish-Swedish alliance, which, after a discussion with the Swedish Premier he had found impracticable; (2) isolated

neutrality; and (3) joining the Atlantic Pact. This question could not be answered until the contents of the pact were generally known and had been carefully studied. 'We must know precisely what guarantees the pact gives, and what obligations the participating countries undertake.'

25 Feb.—*North Atlantic Defence.* M. Rasmussen, Foreign Minister, speaking in Copenhagen, said that the country's participation in the proposed pact was under 'active consideration' and indicated that he might deal with the matter when visiting the U.S.A. at the end of March to attend the U.N. General Assembly.

27 Feb.—*North Atlantic Defence.* The Council of the Social Democratic Party approved the Government's policy by 49 votes to one.

EGYPT. 24 Feb.—*Palestine.* Armistice signed (*see Palestine*). The Prime Minister, Abdel Hadi, announcing the signature, emphasized that the agreement was of purely military significance and in no way prejudiced the political future of Palestine.

27 Feb.—*Government Changes.* It was announced that as a result of the arrest of Ilham Seif el Nasr, on charges of actively supporting the dissolved Muslim Brotherhood, his brother Riad Seif el Nasr Bey, Minister of Communications, had resigned from office. He had been replaced by Dessuky Abaza Pasha (Liberal), previously Foreign Minister. The new Foreign Minister was Ahmed Mohamed Khashaba Pasha (Liberal), who had held this office in Nokrashy Pasha's Cabinet.

EIRE. 17 Feb.—Mr Costello, Prime Minister, speaking in Dublin praised the people of Britain for their sacrifices in restoring their economy. Eire had about £400 million worth of sterling assets.

23 Feb.—*North Atlantic Defence.* Mr MacBride, Minister for External Affairs, told the Dail that in a recent exchange of views with the U.S. Government on the question of Ireland's participation in the pact he had made it clear that while the Government approved the aims of the proposed pact they were faced with an 'insuperable difficulty from the strategic and political points of view because six . . . counties were occupied by British forces against the will of the overwhelming majority of the Irish people'. Any military alliance involving joint action with the State responsible for partition was out of the question. The defence of such a small island could only be effective if undertaken by a single authority.

Mr Costello, Prime Minister, told the Dail that the Government were considering the question of admitting members of the Northern Ireland Parliament to the Dail.

24 Feb.—Mr MacBride in London (*see Great Britain*).

2 Mar.—Mr Costello told the Dail that he repudiated the use of force to end partition.

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION. 17 Feb.—The Council of the O.E.E.C. adopted the resolution of the Ministerial committee on the institution of an eight-Power Committee (*see p. 104*). A second resolution which was adopted outlined a plan of action for 1948-9

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (*continued*)

including financial and monetary stabilization, increased exports, a frequent re-examination of current import programmes and the curtailment of non-essential dollar imports, study of the payments' problem, a concerted development of investment projects, and an approach to the problem of surplus population in Europe. A third resolution was passed providing for more publicity for E.R.P.

Count Sforza, Italian Foreign Minister, issued two statements in Paris on the importance to western Europe of the development of Africa.

18 Feb.—The eight-Power committee, consisting of M. Spaak (Belgium), Sir Stafford Cripps (Britain), M. Schuman (France), Count Sforza (Italy), M. Sadak (Turkey), M. Petitpierre (Switzerland), M. Unden (Sweden), and Dr Hirschfeld (Netherlands), held a private meeting attended by Mr Harriman, European representative of the E.C.A., and agreed to meet for about a week every two months. Sir Stafford Cripps later explained to the press that the new body would not overlap the existing machinery of the O.E.E.C. but was rather an extension of presidential activity. It represented a new technique for international co-operation and opened up the possibility of getting the senior Cabinet Ministers of eight different countries to work together like a national Cabinet. To be successful the discussions must be completely frank and must therefore be held in private.

FINLAND. 23 Feb.—A vote of no confidence introduced in Parliament by the Agrarian Party and supported by the Communists and Popular Democrats was defeated by two votes. M. Faggenholm, Prime Minister, said later that he was 'always ready' to consider widening the Government.

1 Mar.—Printers went on strike for increased wages.

FRANCE. 20 Feb.—It was announced that the Communist Party had carried out a purge of its leading Trade Union officials in the mining areas in the north. Many leaders were dismissed and others criticized for their 'softness'.

Germany. M. Schuman, Foreign Minister, received the Premiers of Rhineland-Palatinate and South Würtemberg who were on a 'private visit' in Paris.

It was announced that important uranium deposits had been discovered near Limoges.

22 Feb.—Indo-China. M. Queuille, Prime Minister, received the ex-Emperor Bao Dai.

The Communist Party published a statement by its Secretary-General, M. Thorez, in which replying to a hypothetical question 'What would you do if the Red Army were to occupy Paris?' he said '... if our people were drawn against their will into an anti-Soviet war, and if then the Soviet army, in defence of the people's cause and that of Socialism, were obliged to pursue the aggressor on to our territory, could the behaviour of the workers and the people of France towards

the Soviet army be any different from that of the workers and peoples of Poland, Rumania, Yugoslavia, etc?

23 Feb.—The foreign affairs committee of the National Assembly called for a discussion of M. Thorez's statement.

The Council of Ministers decided to table a Bill to abolish the special courts instituted after the liberation to try crimes of collaboration.

Indo-China. It was announced that an agreement had been reached with Bao Dai and that he would return to his country before the end of March. The terms of the agreement were not published.

24 Feb.—In answer to a question in the Assembly, M. Thorez repeated his statement and made a speech reiterating the peaceful intentions of the U.S.S.R. and the Communists, and the aggressive policies of the Anglo-Saxons. M. Queuille replied by denouncing the Communists' attempt to claim for themselves the exercise of national sovereignty and said that M. Thorez's statement had been sent to the Public Prosecutor's office.

The Ministry of the Interior announced that a Communist journalist, M. Friedland, was detained by the police when he left the Communist party headquarters 'with documents relating to national defence in his pockets'.

25 Feb.—Police raided Communist newspaper offices in Paris and detained several journalists. The C.G.T. issued a statement threatening 'mass action' if the Government laid hands on Communist leaders.

North Atlantic Defence. M. Queuille said in an interview with the press that the main purpose of the pact would be to spare the countries of western Europe from the danger of invasion, not to liberate them after occupation, for, as M. Thorez had declared, if the Russians ever crossed the Rhine the Communists would do all in their power to help them. The Brussels Treaty Powers alone were not strong enough to deter or resist an initial assault; for this a U.S. guarantee was essential. It was also necessary to establish the first line of defence 'well beyond the reach of the actual frontiers' for once these were crossed it would be too late to save very much.

26 Feb.—The British Ambassador left Paris for a three weeks' official visit to French North Africa.

27 Feb.—It was learned that four of the arrested Communists had been handed over to the military authorities, charged with attempts against the 'external security of the State' and possession of secrets concerning national defence.

28 Feb.—Two regular Army officers, Major Teulery, a Communist, and Captain Azema, a member of the France-U.S.S.R. Society, were arrested. The former was accused of espionage, and an official announcement alleged that he had admitted passing information to the military attaché of an allied 'Popular Democracy' when serving at the Ministry of Munitions in 1946 and 1947. The latter was accused of handing documents dealing with national defence to a newspaper.

The *Humanité* published a letter written by a Communist organization to Mr Truman and signed by M. Benoit-Frachon (Secretary of the

FRANCE (*continued*)

C.G.T.) and others stating that the Government were mistaken in supposing that under cover of the North Atlantic pact the French people would fight against the U.S.S.R. 'We refuse to consider that the pact pledges the word of France.'

The Government published the names of sixty-four miners' delegates to the security committees of the mines who had been dismissed from their posts because of their attitude during the strikes the preceding autumn.

1 Mar.—M. Schuman, speaking to the Council of the Republic on Germany said that the draft Constitution was not of a sufficiently federal type, and that the Government could not accept the resurrection of a centralized Reich. In discussions on the Occupation Statute it had been agreed to give certain new facilities to the Germans but the allies would maintain control over education, the press, and the radio. On the subject of the Ruhr he said that there was no time-limit to allied control; it would last beyond the military occupation, and in some measure, beyond the period of supervision.

2 Mar.—M. Paul Moret, a Communist official of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and formerly *directeur de cabinet* to M. Marcel Paul, was arrested on charges of concealing plans for espionage in connection with the activities of Major Teulery. M. Moch, Minister of the Interior, announced to the Council of Ministers that a total of eight arrests had been made.

The Council of Ministers decided to close the Ministry of Food in view of the greater abundance of agricultural products, as a step towards the ending of rationing. Some of its functions would be transferred to the Prime Minister's office and others to the departmental Prefectures.

GERMANY. 17 Feb. *British Zone*. Gen. Robertson announced to a press conference the formation of the British Relations Board, of which he would be President, to deal with German educational and cultural affairs throughout the Zone. Mr Steel, the political adviser to Military Government, would be chairman and other members would include Mr Birley and Mr Gauntlet. Regional branches would be set up in each *Land*. On the question of the western frontier he said that any rectifications would be subject to confirmation at the Peace Treaty.

Espionage. A U.S. military court in Munich sentenced F. Klecka to twenty years hard labour on charges of espionage in the first of a series of trials of members of a spy ring working under Czechoslovak orders.

18 Feb.—*Berlin*. One German was killed and three were injured in four incidents on the boundary between the Soviet and the western Sectors.

Airlift. On the occasion of the millionth ton of supplies being flown into Berlin British Military Government received a message from Mr Bevin congratulating all concerned for 'saving two million souls from being forced to submit through the weapon of blockade'. The operation was 'an earnest of the resolution of the western Powers to insist upon

their rights'. In a message to Gen. Clay, Mr Acheson said that the success of the airlift had 'enabled the western Powers to discharge their obligations to Berlin as prescribed by solemn international agreement'.

Proposals to incorporate German power production into a European grid and to integrate German and French heavy industry were put forward in a report published by the E.C.A. representative in Frankfurt.

Bizone. The Economic Council adopted a supplementary Budget of 284 million D-marks for the current financial year including 215 million marks for aid to Berlin, bringing the total Budget to 692 million marks.

Congressional committee on reparations (*see United States*).

U.S. Zone. Four thousand metal workers in Bavaria were reported to have joined the 5,000 already on strike for higher wages.

20 Feb.—Berlin. It was announced that the three Western Military Governments had recognized the independent T.U. movement, U.G.O.

Premiers of French Zone in Paris (*see France*).

The chairmen of the trade unions in the three western Zones decided at a meeting at Königswinter that all unions in western Germany should be amalgamated. They appointed a committee to work out a charter.

21 Feb.—Gen. Lukyanschenko, Chief of Staff in the Soviet Zone, accused the U.S. authorities of withholding over 100,000 Soviet citizens from repatriation in western Germany.

Bizone. The Military Governors published the text of Law No. 15 for the German civil service, to come into effect on 15 March. It was based on a draft in course of preparation by the Economic Council at Frankfurt and contained certain additional reforms put forward by the Military Governors including (1) the abolition of class distinction between officials and employees and the new definition of permanent and temporary officials; (2) promotion to be given solely on the basis of ability and not for academic training; (3) members of the civil service could no longer become legislators.

22 Feb.—Refugees. Representatives of the World Council of Churches began a three-day conference in Hamburg on the refugee problem. Dr Gerstenmaier said that the total number in Germany was eleven million of whom seven million lived in the western Zones, amounting to about one-fifth of the population.

Field-Marshal Slim, Chief of the Imperial General Staff, arrived at Bückeburg on a visit to the B.A.O.R.

23 Feb.—Six-Power Conference. The committee of Benelux, British, French, and U.S. representatives met in Paris to discuss Belgian, Dutch, and Luxembourg frontier claims.

24 Feb.—Soviet Note to U.S.A. on repatriation mission in Frankfurt (*see United States*).

25 Feb.—Refugees. The conference ended after recommending unanimously that special E.R.P. funds should be allocated for a rehabilitation scheme to relieve the refugee problem, including the establishment of new communities with supporting industries and the development of land settlement.

27 Feb.—British Zone. Herr Reimann, the Communist leader, made

GERMANY (*continued*)

a violent attack on Allied occupation policy at a demonstration in Dortmund, in defiance of limitations placed on his speech by the local British commander.

28 Feb.—*Bizone*. The two Military Governors held a meeting in Frankfurt with trade union representatives. An official statement issued later said that the Military Governors had emphasized that the question of the socialization of industry would be decided by an elected and truly representative German Government, and that the occupation authorities would not try to influence their decision.

1 Mar.—M. Schuman's speech (*see France*).

Espionage. The U.S. military court in Munich, continuing its series of trials, sentenced one of five accused to thirty years imprisonment, another to twenty years, and the other three to twelve years each.

British Zone. The British authorities announced their intention of building up a special frontier police force of 5,000 men, to tighten the counter-blockade.

British Zone. A German frontier policeman shot dead a Soviet soldier who had crossed the frontier in pursuit of a woman refugee.

U.S. Zone. The U.S. authorities announced that if the Soviet repatriation mission which had been requested to leave Frankfurt by 1 March (*see p. 108*) did not immediately withdraw, its premises would be blockaded and all facilities would be cut off.

2 Mar.—It was learned that Herr Nuschke, leader of the Christian Democratic Party in the Soviet Zone, was visiting the British Zone and had held discussions there with Dr Adenauer.

U.S. Zone. The premises of the Soviet mission were blockaded and telephone, electricity, gas and water supplies were cut off. Marshal Sokolovsky said in Berlin that the action was illegal and accused the U.S.A. of breaking all previous repatriation agreements.

The three western Military Governors received a delegation from the Parliamentary Council at Bonn and handed over a memorandum suggesting certain amendments to the draft constitution. These included provisions that: Berlin should not become the twelfth *Land* in the Western German State, but might send representatives to attend meetings of Parliament; the legislative and financial powers of the Federal Government should be curtailed and those of the *Länder* increased; the police forces of the *Länder* should not be mobilized by the Federal Government without the approval of the Occupation Authorities; the proposed electoral law should be dropped and while the Parliamentary Council should decide the number of deputies to the Lower House and allocate the numbers to be elected in each *Land*, the *Länder* should each draft their individual electoral laws; any internal boundary alterations should be submitted as part of the Constitution—the Federal Government would not have the right to make any further changes until after a peace treaty had been signed; clauses dealing with the judiciary, certain administrative agencies, and the Civil Service should also be revised.

GREAT BRITAIN. 19 Feb.—*North Atlantic Defence.* Mr Bevin, Foreign Secretary, said in a speech in Bristol that if the west and other peace-loving nations co-operated with complete understanding and co-ordinated their peace efforts there would be no war for "hundreds of years".

20 Feb.—M. Tsaldaris, Greek Foreign Minister, arrived in London.

21 Feb.—Mr Bevin received M. Tsaldaris.

Defence. The Navy Estimates for 1949–50 which were presented to Parliament amounted to £189,250,000—about £36 million more than the sum voted for 1948–9. About half the increase was for higher pay and costs and the remainder for improving the state of readiness of the Fleet. No provision was made for any substantial new construction. A Supplementary Estimate of £15,500,000 was proposed for the current year.

Mr Bevin received the U.S. Ambassador, Mr Douglas, for discussions on Germany. It was learned that Mr Douglas was to be in charge of U.S. negotiations with Britain and France on dismantling.

The Foreign Office issued a statement denying Bulgarian allegations of espionage.

Former Italian Colonies. Mr McNeil, Minister of State, told Parliament in answer to a question that it had been decided to transfer the administrative responsibility of Cyrenaica and Tripolitania from the War Office to the Foreign Office.

22 Feb.—*Defence.* The Army Estimates which were presented to Parliament amounted to £304,700,000 compared with the original net estimates of £305 million for the current year and £388 million for 1947–8. An additional sum of £51,500,000 was expected to be met by the sale of surplus supplies to Commonwealth and foreign Governments and by the recovery from them of payment for services rendered. The total would maintain a maximum strength of 550,000 officers and men—a reduction of 300,000 since April 1948. A Supplementary Estimate of £55 million for the current year was also presented to meet the balance due under the India defence expenditure plan.

Anglo-Canadian Trade. Sir Stafford Cripps, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said in an interview with the Canadian press that he wanted to remove 'some recent misunderstandings' about trade policy with Canada. Britain had had to reduce the war-time volume of purchases, and further reductions might be necessary, because of the dollar shortage—a problem which could only be solved by an intensification of the export drive. Exports to Canada had already increased and Britain was attempting to supply the goods that were most required, even those that were scarce like steel. Canada would be one of Britain's largest steel markets in 1949 but certain quantities had to be kept for use in bilateral agreements with other countries in exchange for essential goods which included many commodities not obtainable in Canada. Canada for her part must show herself more willing to buy British products.

Mr Creech Jones, Secretary for the Colonies, received Mr Bird and Mr Bradshaw, representatives of the trade unions of the Leeward

GREAT BRITAIN (*continued*)

Islands and members of the Legislative Council, who presented their case for the return of the Governor, Lord Baldwin.

Permission to attend espionage trial (*see Bulgaria*).

M. Tsaldaris said in an interview with a press correspondent that he favoured the creation of three new regional defence pacts: (1) *Northern Mediterranean* composed of Greece, Turkey, Italy, France, and Britain (by virtue of Gibraltar, Malta, and Cyprus); (2) *Eastern Mediterranean* composed of Greece, Turkey, and Arab countries—probably Israel, Persia, and Pakistan; (3) *Far East* possibly composed of the nineteen countries which attended the recent Delhi Conference (*see p. 46*). These pacts would be interlocking and would be linked with the North Atlantic Pact through the co-operation of Britain and France in the Northern Mediterranean area. Discussing machinery for bringing about closer political unity in Europe he said that all free nations ought to be given a voice and deprecated the existing arrangements which tended to accentuate the division between East and West.

Trade negotiations with Argentine (*see Argentine*).

23 Feb.—Discussions were held at the Foreign Office between the deputy Under-Secretary and the U.S. Ambassador on Germany.

Defence. The Air Estimates which were presented to Parliament amounted to £207,450,000—a total of £34,450,000 more than the original estimate for the current year. The Secretary of State for Air, Mr Henderson, explained in a memorandum (Cmd. 7634) that the increase was mainly due to measures taken to strengthen the R.A.F. in aircraft and equipment, and in increased pay and costs. The maximum strength would amount to 255,000 including 16,000 members of the W.R.A.F.—compared with 325,000 in the current year. A supplementary estimate for £16,400,000 for the current year was also presented.

Colonial Surveys. Mr Creech Jones told Parliament that the Economic Co-operation Administration had approved a Government project to make use of E.R.P. funds in their geological and topographical surveys in certain colonial areas—notably in East and Central Africa.

Mr Mayhew's speech on economic recovery (*see Economic and Social Council*).

Lord Hall, First Lord of the Admiralty, told the House of Lords in answer to questions that he was satisfied with the build-up and efficiency of the Fleet which was ready to deal with any emergency that might arise.

Malaya. Lord Listowel, Minister of State for Colonial Affairs, told the Lords in answer to questions that it was untrue that Britain was losing economically in Malaya. The monthly output of rubber and tin had risen in 1948 compared with 1947. Bandit activity had decreased. Their attacks had fallen from 278 in November to 198 in January and the number of civilians murdered had fallen from 48 monthly from June to December to 31 in January.

24 Feb.—Civil estimates amounting to £2,239,597,987 for 1949–50 were presented to Parliament—an increase of at least £56 million over expenditure in the current year.

Mr MacBride, Eire Minister for External Affairs, arrived in London for a short visit.

26 Feb.—After consulting with Mr Attlee and Mr Bevin, Sir Stafford Cripps issued a statement denying the truth of suggestions made by Mr Mayhew that British recovery was complete. While production had risen above pre-war level and social conditions had improved, the country was still unable to meet the large dollar deficit for essential imports on which recovery depended. The continuation of Marshall aid was absolutely vital.

Trade and financial agreement with Switzerland (*see Switzerland*).

Mr McNeil, Minister of State, speaking at a private meeting in Dumbarton, said that Mr Mayhew had 'blurted out the truth at the wrong moment . . . when we were looking for the second instalment of the Marshall Plan'. Figures soon to be published showed that 'Britain has surprised even herself by how near she has come to balancing what she has to spend with what she has been able to earn'. Without Marshall Aid, however, the necessary food and raw materials would be lacking.

27 Feb.—The Prime Minister, most of the Cabinet, and the Executive of the Labour Party, ended a two-day private conference at Shanklin, Isle of Wight, to consider the draft statement on policy for the next General Election.

Soviet Note on repatriation of citizens (*see U.S.S.R.*).

Mr McNeil said in a statement that the essential point he had wanted to make in his Dumbarton speech was that despite all efforts there was still a 'very worrying' dollar deficit.

1 Mar.—It was announced that an agreement had been concluded with the Netherlands providing for a considerable increase in trade over the preceding year.

Mr Bevin received Mr Harriman and the U.S. Ambassador.

Colonial Defence. The Select Committee on Estimates published a report (House of Commons Paper No. 86) on plans to co-ordinate colonial defence with the general scheme of Imperial defence.

2 Mar.—*Bulgaria.* It was learned that Mr Andrews had told the Foreign Office that the charges made against him in the trial of Bulgarian pastors were untrue.

Mr Bevin and Sir Stafford Cripps together received Mr Harriman and the U.S. Ambassador.

GREECE. 18 Feb.—The Cabinet passed a draft Bill imposing a special tax on the richer classes.

An official report which reached London alleged that in their recent unsuccessful attack on Florina the Communists, now under the leadership of Nicholas Zachariades, had abandoned partisan measures and initiated methods of frontal assault. 783 rebels had been killed and 350 taken prisoner while the Army lost 44 killed, 220 wounded, and 35 missing.

It was announced that guerrilla bands coming from Yugoslav territory had temporarily captured a frontier post west of Florina and had later withdrawn into Yugoslavia.

GREECE (*continued*)

Investigations showed that a U.S. medical officer whose plane had crashed near Karpenisi in January had been brutally killed by guerrillas.

20 Feb.—M. Tsaldaris in London (*see Great Britain*).

D. Paparigas, a member of the central committee of the Communist Party who was under arrest in Athens, committed suicide.

22 Feb.—M. Tsaldaris on regional defence pacts (*see Great Britain*).

2 Mar.—Five students were sentenced to death by a military court in Athens on charges of sabotage.

HUNGARY. 18 Feb.—Mr Chapin, U.S. Ambassador, said in Paris on his way back to Washington that the charges made against him and his staff were 'deliberate . . . lies, beneath contempt'.

The Bench of Bishops were believed to have met to discuss a letter dated 12 February which they had received from Cardinal Mindszenty requesting them to reopen negotiations with the Government.

19 Feb.—The Government issued a 'Black Book' reporting the Cardinal's trial.

20 Feb.—Father Balogh, who had previously been released from his functions by the Cardinal for taking part in politics, was believed to have asked the Government to allow his Independent Democratic Party—the last nominally Opposition party—to join the People's Front.

28 Feb.—The trial of fifteen people charged with complicity in the alleged illegal currency transactions of Cardinal Mindszenty opened before a Workers' Court in Budapest.

1 Mar.—Five of the accused retracted confessions of guilt made during interrogation before the trial, alleging that they had been intimidated and were suffering from nervous strain and illness. Three others pleaded guilty.

INDIA. 19 Feb.—Sikh grievances against the Government culminated in demonstrations by Askalis (militant Sikhs) in Delhi. Their intention to hold a meeting of the general Council of the Akali Dal, in defiance of the official ban on that body, was thwarted by the arrest of their leader, Tara Singh, and a number of his followers.

Police started a drive against Communists who were alleged to be fomenting strikes and sabotage on the railways in an attempt to hamper the industrial system.

20 Feb.—The number of Communists arrested reached a total of 425, including thirty-eight in Hyderabad. A Government spokesman in Bombay said that the police had 'got all they wanted'. New Delhi radio reported that the executive of the National T.U. Congress had called on railway workers to resist the contemplated strike. Efforts would be continued to secure justice for the workers.

25 Feb.—The deputy Prime Minister said in a written Parliamentary reply that 3,932 Communists had been arrested in Hyderabad State.

Armed bandits, alleged to be members of the Revolutionary Communist Party, carried out raids on an airfield, a munitions factory, and a workshop at Dum Dum, five miles from Calcutta. At least six people

were killed, including three Britons. Two police stations at Basirhat on the Pakistan frontier were also raided. The bandits later attempted to escape into Pakistan.

26 Feb.—Emergency measures were taken in West Bengal. At a village ten miles from Calcutta police opened fire when attacked by a crowd believed to be led by Communists and killed five people.

28 Feb.—*Delhi Conference.* An informal conference on the situation in Burma was held in Delhi between Pandit Nehru, Dr Evatt, Australian Minister for External Affairs, Mr Bottomley, British Secretary for Overseas Trade, Mr de Silva, High Commissioner for Ceylon, and Mr MacDonald, Commissioner-General in South-East Asia. A statement issued afterwards said that it had been agreed that peace should be restored through conciliation and that it had been decided to send a joint communication to the Burmese Prime Minister making certain suggestions on the subject.

The Budget estimates which were presented to Parliament provided for a revenue of £242,235,000 and expenditure of £241,897,500.

Pandit Nehru, Prime Minister, told Parliament that the Communists were 'bordering on open revolt'. 870 arrests had been made in the past ten days in connection with the proposed railway strike.

INDONESIA. **26 Feb.**—Dutch proposals (*see Netherlands*). Dr Beel arrived in Batavia from the Hague.

1 Mar.—U.N. Commission report (*see Security Council*).

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN MOVEMENT. **28 Feb.**—A four-day conference in Brussels, which had been addressed by Mr Churchill, M. Spaak, and others ended after adopting two resolutions, and after electing M. Jouhaux, leader of the French Force Ouvrière, Chairman of the Council and Mr Duncan Sandys Chairman of the Executive Committee. The resolution drawn up by the judicial committee recommended the establishment of a European Court of Human Rights, composed of nine members, to implement the U.N. Declaration. The resolution of the political committee recommended that the European Assembly should consist of at least 300 members from the democratic countries, including Western Germany and as soon as possible the whole of Germany, who should be nominated by their respective National Parliaments on an all-party basis, and including non-parliamentarians. Each Parliament should have the option of excluding from its representatives those 'unprepared to give loyal aid in building up the democratic institutions of a United Europe'. Persons outside the national delegations should be elected for their 'representative European character', including exiles from undemocratic states. The Assembly, which should sit at least forty-five days a year, should have the right to discuss any questions of interest to the European community.

INTERNATIONAL MINERS' FEDERATION. **25 Feb.**—The executive committee meeting in Düsseldorf decided to admit the

INTERNATIONAL MINERS' FEDERATION (*continued*)

Austrian, west German, and French Force Ouvrière Miners' Unions to the organization. An invitation to join the World Federation of Trade Unions was shelved.

INTERNATIONAL WHEAT CONFERENCE. 18 Feb.—An Argentine spokesman announced that his country was withdrawing from the conference as the proposed price scales were too low.

ITALY. 17 Feb.—*Labour Unrest.* A number of workers and police were injured in a clash which occurred at Isola del Liri, sixty miles from Rome.

After a trial lasting over a year Prince Valerio Borghese was sentenced to twelve years imprisonment for responsibility for a massacre of partisans and civilians in the last month of the war. The 'Arditi' (military assault troops) published a magazine glorifying the former Fascist leaders and attacking the Government and the 'Anglo-Saxon beast'.

18 Feb.—*Labour Unrest.* The Confederation of Trade Unions protested to the Minister of the Interior that the police had adopted 'uncivilized methods', and a number of strikes were organized in Rome.

Prince Borghese was released, having served nearly four years of his sentence and eight years being discounted by amnesties. The Cabinet issued a communiqué saying that the Government were aware of a revival of Fascist activity undertaken by small 'nostalgic nuclei' and would deal harshly with any violence.

21 Feb.—The editor and three sub-editors of a new Fascist weekly were arrested in Rome for publishing articles in praise of Mussolini and his régime.

A twenty-four-hour bus and tram strike was held throughout the country in protest against a proposed Government Bill to enforce public service staff reductions.

24 Feb.—The Council of Ministers approved a draft Bill for the creation of a Supreme Defence Council.

25 Feb.—An uproar occurred in the Chamber of Deputies between Communists and Christian Democrats on the subject of Prince Borghese's release. The Government's policy was also attacked by a Social Democrat spokesman.

26 Feb.—Sr Togliatti, the Communist leader, said in an interview that in the event of war in which the Soviet army was compelled to follow the aggressor on to Italian soil it would be the people's duty to support the Russians. He added that it would serve the cause of peace to make this known to the world.

Sr Saragat, the Social Democratic deputy Premier, handed in his resignation to Sr de Gasperi in connection, it was believed, with the Borghese case. The two Ministers later issued statements saying that the matter was being studied.

The special assize court trying Marshal Graziani accepted a submission by the defence counsel that it was not competent to judge the

case and ordered the proceedings to be referred to the military attorney's office.

27 Feb.—The A.N.P.I. (National Association of Partisans) demonstrated throughout the country in protest against the release of Prince Borghese.

San Marino. In General Elections which were held for the Grand Council, the Socialist-Communist administration was returned to power.

28 Feb.—It was learned that the Minister of Justice had ordered an inquiry into the trial of Prince Borghese.

2 Mar.—Signor Saragat withdrew his resignation.

E.R.P. The Council of Ministers approved the nomination of Signor Tremelloni, a Social Democrat and chairman of the Government's E.R.P. sub-commission, to serve on the eight-Power Committee of the O.E.E.C.

MALAYA. 17 Feb.—The High Commissioner, Sir Henry Gurney, told a meeting of the Legislative Council at Kuala Lumpur that the British Government had been asked to make a substantial contribution to the cost of security and defence requirements, which amounted to a daily rate of 300,000 Straits dollars.

18 Feb.—Gen. Dunlop, G.O.C. Singapore District, told a press conference at Kuala Lumpur that during the past six months 120 bandits had been killed in Johore State, 300 had been captured, and about 1,600 suspects detained after interrogation. The number of incidents had recently decreased.

20 Feb.—R.A.F. Spitfires attacked a gang of bandits near Kuantan. Twelve bandits set fire to an estate eleven miles from Kuala Lumpur.

21 Feb.—A British corporal was killed by a bandit near Mentakab in the Pahang jungle.

23 Feb.—Statement by Minister for Colonial Affairs (*see Great Britain*).

24 Feb.—Police and troops cleared a squatter area at the foot of Batu caves, six miles north of Kuala Lumpur, and detained 350 people.

28 Feb.—Mr Bourdillon of the Colonial Office Finance Department arrived in Singapore for discussions on proposed British assistance for rehabilitation and defence costs.

A combined air and ground attack was made on a bandit camp near Triang in south-east Pahang. Security forces began a round-up of squatters on the Kedah-Siam border, an area which was believed to be completely under bandit control.

1 Mar.—In the operation near Triang over 100 bandit supporters and spies were rounded up. One British corporal was killed and another wounded.

NETHERLANDS. 19 Feb.—*Indonesia.* Dr van Maarseveen, Minister *ad interim* for Overseas Territories, told the Chamber that Dr Beel, the High Commissioner in Indonesia, had declared his full agreement with the Government's policy.

NETHERLANDS (*continued*)

23 Feb.—Dr Beel left by air for Batavia.

26 Feb.—*Indonesia.* The Government issued a statement announcing that they had decided to accelerate the transfer of sovereignty so that it might be effected 'considerably earlier' than 1 July 1950—the ultimate date laid down by the Security Council. They had also decided to release the Republican leaders. They proposed to hold a round-table conference with all parties concerned on 12 March at the Hague to consider conditions for the transfer of sovereignty, the simultaneous establishment of the Indonesian Union, and arrangements for the intermediary period. The U.N. Committee had also been invited to attend.

28 Feb.—*Indonesia.* It was learned that the Indonesian Federal Consultative Council had accepted the invitation to the Hague conference.

1 Mar.—Trade agreement with Britain (*see Great Britain*).

NICARAGUA. **21 Feb.**—Pact of friendship with Costa Rica signed (*see United States*).

NEWFOUNDLAND. **21 Feb.**—The Commission Government announced that they had approved the terms of union with Canada.

NORTHERN IRELAND. **18 Feb.**—Sir Basil Brooke, Prime Minister, said in a statement that Ulster would welcome a North Atlantic pact and ridiculed Eire's suggestion that partition was an obstacle.

25 Feb.—*Elections.* With the announcement of the results of the University seats the final composition of the House of Commons was: Unionists, 37; Independent Unionists, 2; Nationalists, 9; Independent Labour, 1; Socialist Republicans, 1; Independents, 2.

NORWAY. **17 Feb.**—M. Gerhardsen, Prime Minister, and M. Lange, Foreign Minister, were believed to have held a conference with the Swedish and Danish Premiers who were in Oslo for the Labour Party Congress.

20 Feb.—*North Atlantic Defence.* The Labour Party Congress passed a unanimous resolution stating that since it was not possible 'to unite a general Scandinavian defence union with general co-operation among the democracies in the sphere of defence' it considered that the security problem must be solved 'in solidarity and binding co-operation in the political sphere with the western democracies. This co-operation must support the U.N. Charter and be purely peaceful and defensive'.

21 Feb.—*Council of Europe.* It was announced that the country would participate in consultations on the establishment of a European Council.

24 Feb.—*North Atlantic Defence.* M. Lange, reporting to the Storting on the results of his visits to Washington and London, explained that he had abandoned the idea of a Scandinavian league since it had been made clear to him that such a league would have no influence in preventing war and could not therefore depend on political or military help from the west. No pressure was being put on them to join the proposed Atlantic

pact and no time-limit had been imposed for their decision. If they joined they would not be asked to provide bases in peace-time, nor would they be asked to maintain defence forces at a level likely to prejudice the national economy. The pact assumed the setting up of a joint advisory and planning organization in which all parties would have the same voting rights. He also said that the Government were giving careful study to the Soviet proposal for a non-aggression pact.

PALESTINE. 17 Feb.—*Israel.* Dr Weizmann was sworn in as President. He accepted the resignation of the provisional Government but asked them to continue in office pending the formation of a new Government. M. Shertok, Foreign Minister, told a press conference that in the efforts to find a solution of the problem of Jerusalem consideration would be given to its international importance. On the question of Arab territory in Palestine he said that rather than recognize King Abdullah's sovereignty they would prefer the establishment of an independent Arab State.

20 Feb.—*Armistice Talks.* A draft agreement was completed which satisfied the Israeli delegation but on one clause of which the Egyptians reserved their decision.

21 Feb.—King Abdullah on negotiations (*see Transjordan*).

22 Feb.—*Armistice Talks.* Dr Eytan, head of the Israeli delegation, said that his Government fully agreed to the terms of the draft.

23 Feb.—*Armistice Talks.* It was announced in Rhodes that the Egyptian Government had accepted the terms of the armistice and that the Israeli Government had informed Dr Bunche that they were ready to open talks with Transjordan. It was also learned that Iraq and Saudi Arabia had declared themselves willing to accept any armistice agreements acceptable to the other Arab States.

Gen. Riley, Gen. Bunche's Chief of Staff, left on a 'special mission' to Beirut.

24 Feb.—*Armistice Talks.* The armistice was signed by the two delegations in Rhodes. It was a purely military settlement concerned with that part of the Negeb west of a line drawn from Nabi Yun, a coastal village about twenty miles south of Tel Aviv, to the Gulf of Aqaba, and running through Isdud and Faluja and west of Beersheba. Israel was allowed to keep troops in the eastern Negeb pending a settlement with Transjordan. Egypt retained the Gaza-Rafah strip and was allowed to keep three battalions there and also in a limited military zone in Sinai stretching from El Arish to the Gulf of Aqaba. Apart from these forces both sides agreed to reduce their troops in the area to three battalions respectively within a time limit of four weeks. The Egyptian garrison at Faluja would be withdrawn and also those Egyptian troops cut off in the Hebron and Bethlehem area. Israeli troops would be withdrawn from Bir Aslug and the frontier town of El Auja which was designated a demilitarized area for the headquarters of a commission to supervise the armistice. An exchange of prisoners was to begin within ten days. The agreement did not require ratification and would come into force immediately.

PALESTINE (continued)

M. Shertok expressed his satisfaction at the agreement which secured for Israel 'unimpaired control over its entire territory in the Negeb and in particular complete freedom of movement in its eastern part'.

27 Feb.—The evacuation of the Rafah area by Israeli troops was completed.

1 Mar.—*Armistice Talks.* Israeli and Lebanese representatives met near the frontier in the presence of M. Vigier, the U.N. delegate, to discuss a draft armistice agreement drawn up as the result of earlier meetings.

Conciliation Commission. The Commission announced that it had invited Egypt, Transjordan, Syria, the Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and Iraq to attend a conference at Beirut, beginning on 21 March, to discuss the Arab refugee problem and other questions.

Israeli troops were reported to be moving south in the eastern Negeb and to be within twenty miles of Aqaba.

2 Mar.—*Armistice Talks.* Negotiations between Israel and Transjordan opened at Rhodes.

PARAGUAY. **26 Feb.**—The provisional President, Gen. Rolon, after four weeks in office, was overthrown by a 'bloodless *coup d'état*' and was succeeded by Senor Lopez, Minister of Education.

PERSIA. **22 Feb.**—The War Minister was authorized to declare martial law in any part of the country when necessary.

24 Feb.—Five newspaper editors were sentenced to varying terms of imprisonment for publishing articles 'vilifying the Royal Family, the Government, and the Army', thereby making themselves accessories before the fact in the recent attempt on the Shah's life.

25 Feb.—Martial law was proclaimed in Khurasan, a province in the north-east.

PERU. **19 Feb.**—Allegations of complicity in a plot to overthrow Bolivian President (*see Bolivia*).

22 Feb.—It was learned that the Foreign Ministry had repudiated the Bolivian accusations.

POLAND. **22 Feb.**—President Bierut and Marshal Rola-Zymierski, Minister of Defence, were reported to have received Marshal Rokossovsky who, accompanied by three Soviet Generals, arrived in Warsaw for a few hours' visit.

25 Feb.—It was learned that the Foreign Minister had taken up with the British Ambassador the question of the Polish children abducted by the Nazis and still remaining in the western Zones of Germany. The Government were also interested in Polish children in Tanganyika, Uganda, South Africa, New Zealand, and the U.S.A.

North Atlantic Defence. The Foreign Office announced that the Ministers in Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and Finland had been recalled for discussions 'on the attempts of imperialist circles to draw the

Scandinavian countries into the orbit of an aggressive North Atlantic pact'.

RHODESIAS. 17 Feb.—*Federation.* A resolution was passed guaranteeing existing native land rights in Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland. A communiqué issued at the end of the conference said that it had been agreed to form a committee of technical experts whose recommendations would be discussed at a further meeting of the delegates. A referendum would be held in the three countries and a third meeting would then decide how to approach Britain with the federation proposal.

RUMANIA. 2 Mar.—The Government announced the dispossession of landowners of big estates and the restriction of all holdings to a maximum area of fifty hectares as a measure to obstruct plans to sabotage agricultural production.

SIAM. 17 Feb.—Marshal Pibul, Prime Minister, told a press conference that a State of Emergency was about to be proclaimed to combat the growing Communist menace represented by developments in neighbouring States and by infiltration inside the country. He had just received information from Paris that Dr Ho Chi Minh, leader of the Viet Minh movement in Indo-China, had definitely joined hands with Mao Tse-tung, the Chinese Communist. Many Chinese newcomers in Siam were suspected followers of Mao Tse-tung, and the police were watching their activities. It might later be necessary to enforce press censorship.

23 Feb.—The decree declaring a State of Emergency throughout the country was signed by the Council of Regency.

24 Feb.—It was announced that a plot had been discovered to overthrow the Government and assassinate the Prime Minister and leading members of the Cabinet. Fourteen people had been arrested including two Army officers and some Chinese suspected of Communist sympathies.

25 Feb.—Marshal Pibul, Prime Minister, said that the plot had been 'totally smashed' and that the Government were 'supremely confident' of maintaining order. The country was like 'an oasis in a vast desert of Communist unrest'. A total of twenty-four suspects were believed to have been arrested.

26 Feb.—Conspirators, disguised as soldiers, seized the palace, the wireless station, and other public buildings in Bangkok, and announced in a broadcast that the Pibul Government had been removed and that the new Prime Minister would be Nai Direk Jayanama, a former Ambassador in London and a member of the 'Free Thai' movement. Government forces led by Gen. Luang Kach Songkram later recaptured the radio station and contradicted the announcement, but already the navy had started demonstrating against the army and open fighting had broken out in the streets.

27 Feb.—Fighting continued between the army and the navy until Marshal Pibul intervened in person at the head of a group of senior

SIAM (*continued*)

military and naval officers and recalled them to discipline. Over forty rebels were arrested.

28 Feb.—Sporadic firing occurred, but the situation was generally calmer. Troops were confined to barracks.

1 Mar.—No further incidents were reported. It was learned that a Commission had been appointed to investigate the causes of the outbreak.

2 Mar.—It was learned that Gen. Luang Kach Songkram had been replaced as Army Commander in the Bangkok area by Gen. Serisdi Dhanarach. (Gen. Luang Kach was the extremist organizer of the army coup which had put Marshal Pibul in power in 1947.)

SOUTH AFRICA. **17 Feb.**—*South-West Africa.* Dr Malan, Prime Minister, told the Assembly that 'terrific' pressure was being brought on the Union to put the territory under U.N. trusteeship. He hoped to counter this form of propaganda by giving the territory wider powers of self-government. Under the Bill (*see p. 119*) the territory's members in the Union Parliament would have a voice on all matters except Union taxation.

The Durban riot commission opened its inquiries.

19 Feb.—Following on the death of an African girl who fell under the wheels of an Indian bus a mob of Africans set fire to the vehicle.

20 Feb.—Further clashes occurred between Africans and Indians in Durban.

21 Feb.—*South-West Africa.* Mr Louw, Minister of Economic Affairs, told the Assembly that no further reports on the territory would be submitted to the Trusteeship Council. But the administration would be continued in the spirit of the original mandate.

24 Feb.—Following on rumours that the Africans were planning further attacks on the Indian population in Durban, police reinforcements were drafted to the city and naval and military detachments were ordered to stand by.

Financial Policy. Mr Havenga, Minister of Finance, told the Assembly that fears expressed by the International Monetary Fund about the sale in London of semi-processed gold were unjustified. The Union was continuing to honour her obligations to the fund and was not entering the open gold market, but she refused to hold aloof from the market for fully-fabricated gold. He also announced two further measures of import control: an extension of the list of 'prohibited' luxury articles, and a new system of control by permits on all commodities both from the sterling and the dollar area.

25 Feb.—Statement on sale of gold (*see International Monetary Fund*).

2 Mar.—In a statement replying to the I.M.F., Mr Havenga reaffirmed that the Government were acting in accordance with their obligations under the Bretton Woods agreement and added that if the directors of the Fund desired it, he was willing to grant them the right of inspection.

SPAIN. 18 Feb.—Senor Alcala Zamora, first President of the Republic, died at Buenos Aires at the age of seventy-one.

2 Mar.—An official of the Falange Youth organization and his chauffeur were reported to have been shot dead while driving in Barcelona.

SUDAN. 17 Feb.—Sir James Robertson, the Civil Secretary, told the Legislative Assembly that the chief aim of the Executive Council was to accelerate the process of self-Government both at the centre and locally and called on the people to co-operate in setting up self-governing institutions to shorten the intervening period.

SWEDEN. 17 Feb.—Prime Minister in Oslo (*see Norway*).

20 Feb.—*North Atlantic Defence*. M. Erlander, Prime Minister, said in a speech in Stockholm that the resolution of the Norwegian Labour Party Congress effectively disposed of all rumours of a renewal of Scandinavian defence discussions. This was regrettable but the Government understood that each country must form its own policy and Sweden, for her part, would continue her policy of neutrality.

It was learned that the number of refugees in the country, mainly from Eastern Europe, was steadily increasing. There was now a total of 175,000 foreign citizens compared with 140,000 in 1948, and 120,000 at the beginning of 1947.

27 Feb.—Chief of Air Force in Ottawa (*see Canada*).

28 Feb.—The Government received a Soviet Note accusing them of organizing a 'campaign of terror and persecution' to prevent Soviet refugees from the Baltic States from returning home.

2 Mar.—The Government rejected the Soviet Note, describing the charges as 'sheer imagination'.

SWITZERLAND. 26 Feb.—A one-year trade and financial agreement with Great Britain was signed in Berne.

TRANSJORDAN. 21 Feb.—*Palestine*. King Abdullah said in an interview with the press that the Government were not yet satisfied of the sincerity of Israel's intentions. A small military delegation was being sent to Rhodes to negotiate a military armistice and if it received certain assurances the Government would consider sending a larger delegation to explore the possibilities of a final peace settlement. Any Transjordan delegation would speak for Iraq, for the two countries could never be divided. The Government were prepared to compromise but on two points they would be adamant: the future of Jerusalem where they claimed the Old City and those areas previously occupied by Arabs, and the refugee question. With regard to the Middle East generally he was in favour of a reconstituted Arab alliance stretching from Aqaba to Basra. In war he would welcome an Arab and Anglo-American alliance, but in peace American participation was unnecessary. He stressed the country's friendship with Britain.

2 Mar.—Opening of armistice talks (*see Palestine*).

TRIESTE. 26 Feb.—The Communist-dominated dockers union called a strike for higher wages.

TURKEY. 18 Feb.—M. Sadak, Foreign Minister, told a press correspondent in Paris that he favoured the idea of a Mediterranean regional pact based on the U.N. Charter and composed in the first instance of Britain, France, Italy, Turkey, and Greece. No formal discussions had yet been held on the subject.

UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

23 Feb.—Mr Mayhew, British Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, indicated in a speech that Britain's economic recovery was complete. In spite of a 'disturbing dollar deficit' she was now 'definitely in sight of balancing total overseas payments'.

24 Feb.—Mr Mayhew told the press that his statement did not imply that Britain could do without Marshall aid. Its continuation was 'absolutely vital'.

The Council decided to form a sub-commission on freedom of information and the press. The twelve members, who would be chosen by the Commission on Human Rights, would serve as experts in their personal capacity and not as representatives of their Governments. Their term of office would last until 31 December 1952. The measure was opposed by the Soviet, Polish, and White Russian delegates.

25 Feb.—Mr Willard Thorp (U.S.A.) proposed that the United Nations should study means of implementing Mr Truman's plan for the technical development of backward areas and called on the Secretary-General to prepare a working paper for consideration at the Council's next conference in July.

28 Feb.—The Soviet delegate was reported to have replied to the debate on slave labour (*see p. 120*) by proposing that an international commission should be appointed to investigate working conditions in all countries.

Mr Mayhew speaking on Mr Truman's plan to develop the backward areas supported Mr Willard Thorp's proposal and described what Britain had already done in this field. Exports of capital goods to the Colonies were now running at over 200 per cent of the 1938 volume.

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

18 Feb.—*East-West Trade.* Mr Thorley (Britain) told the Conference that his Government were ready to offer greater use of convertible sterling and would open discussions on the subject with any European country.

19 Feb.—*East-West Trade.* At the close of its session the Committee had reached agreement on a tentative programme for expanding European trade which included the following recommendations: a list should be made of the requirements of certain countries together with a survey of the potential resources of other countries capable of meeting these deficiencies; means should be sought of softening the rigidity in

bilateral agreements caused by the non-convertibility of European currencies and a study made of the possibilities of multilateral agreements which would solve currency difficulties; long-term bilateral agreements on the model of the Anglo-Polish five-year agreement should be encouraged; the possibility should be studied of providing credits to eastern countries to relieve them of the strain of paying immediately for western equipment for which they often had to wait a long time.

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

25 Feb.—The directors issued a statement criticizing the South African Finance Minister's speech the previous day on the sale of gold and declaring that they were not satisfied that adequate safeguards existed in the recent transaction (see p. 119). The South African Government had been advised that they must consult the Fund before undertaking further such transactions.

SECURITY COUNCIL

17 Feb.—*Trieste*. M. Malik (U.S.S.R.) who had called for the session requested that a Governor be appointed immediately and announced that his Government agreed to the candidacy of Col. Flueckiger of Switzerland (who was originally proposed by Britain in September 1947). The British, French, and U.S. delegates disagreed with the proposal, Mr Austin (U.S.A.) stating that this was primarily a matter for diplomatic negotiations with the other Powers concerned.

24 Feb.—*Israel*. The Israeli Government renewed their application for membership.

1 Mar.—*Indonesia*. In a report from Batavia the U.N. Commission accused the Netherlands of failing to implement the resolution of 28 January (see p. 91) and said that the situation showed a 'progressive deterioration'. The proposed round-table conference at the Hague appeared to be a substitute for the Council's orders. The Dutch authorities were also accused of restricting the movements of the U.N. military observers and of refusing to supply them with military information. On the basis of their limited information active warfare, 'both guerrilla and on a more generally-organized basis', was continuing in different areas. The report contained documents substantiating the Commission's allegations, including Republican complaints of the alleged suppression of the press and of the imprisonment, without trial, of thousands of Indonesians.

UNITED STATES. 17 Feb.—Mr Truman reaffirmed to a press conference the statements made by Mr Acheson the preceding day on the North Atlantic Pact and policy in Japan (see p. 126). He also reaffirmed the Government's intention to continue a bi-partisan foreign policy.

18 Feb.—*North Atlantic Defence*. Senator Connally said in a statement that the pact could only be effective if it had the overwhelming support of Congress. Ratification by the requisite two-thirds vote in the Senate

UNITED STATES (*continued*)

would not be enough. Mr Acheson received the French Ambassador and the French U.N. representative for discussions on the pact and later explained the draft to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

European Recovery Programme. A report issued by the Congressional 'watchdog' committee proposed that part of the appropriations should be set aside for buying up the reparations claims of the European nations who would be given the choice of dollars or reparations. It also asserted that Britain and France had obstructed efforts to revise the reparations programme.

19 Feb.—The President announced that he had accepted the resignation of Gen. Draper, Under-Secretary of the Army and chief of the department dealing with the occupation of Germany.

21 Feb.—The Ambassadors of Costa Rica and Nicaragua signed a pact of friendship in Washington in the presence of members of the Council of American States, thus formally ending the differences that arose in December (see Vol. IV, p. 831).

Note of protest to Bulgaria rejected (see *Bulgaria*).

24 Feb.—E.C.A. approval of Colonial Survey plan (see *Great Britain*).

Mr Wallace, appearing before the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives at his own request, opposed the continuation of the Economic Co-operation Act and attacked the proposed North Atlantic Pact.

Under-developed Areas. Mr Truman told a press conference in answer to a question that when permanent peace was assured in the Middle East he might consider certain developments there in connection with the fourth point in his inaugural address.

North Atlantic Defence. Mr Austin, the U.N. delegate, speaking at Montpelier, appealed for popular support for the pact and said that the Government should announce that any attack in the North Atlantic region was a threat to the country's safety and peace.

A Note was received from the Soviet Government protesting against Gen. Clay's request for the withdrawal of their repatriation mission in Frankfurt (see p. 108) and accusing the U.S. authorities in Germany of violating the repatriation agreement signed in the Crimea in February 1945 by holding back large numbers of Soviet citizens who wished to return home.

25 Feb.—*European Recovery Programme.* Senator Vandenburg told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that Mr Mayhew's statements to the Economic and Social Council on British recovery raised doubts as to whether Britain really needed the funds requested by the E.C.A., and proposed that Mr Hoffman and Mr Finletter should be further questioned on the subject. Mr Acheson, replying to a question, said that Mr Mayhew's speech in no way raised the question of stopping aid to Britain. British recovery was 'entirely based on the E.C.A.'

Mr Acheson said in Washington that the State Department was preparing 'separate supplemental legislation' for a programme of arms aid to Europe including countries outside the proposed Atlantic pact. Senator Taft expressed 'grave doubts' on the wisdom of this plan.

28 Feb.—*E.R.P.* Mr Hoffman, testifying before a special session of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, emphasized the political nature of Mr Mayhew's speech which had come as a retort to Russian provocation. Nevertheless on reading this and other British speeches he and his advisers had considered the possibility of cutting the British allocation of \$940 million by \$200 million and had come to the conclusion that any reduction would be a 'disaster' to British recovery and would have adverse effects on U.S. and Canadian export trade. A cut in imports of raw materials would result in a four-fold cut in production while reduced food imports must lower a standard of living which was already austere. Mr Finletter supported this statement with descriptions of Britain's balance sheets, earnings, and export targets. The session was marked by a general appreciation of Britain's efforts.

2 Mar.—Mr Foster, Chairman of the Communist Party, and Mr Dennis, its General Secretary, said in a statement that their party would co-operate with all democratic forces to defeat the 'predatory war aims of American imperialism'.

U.S.S.R. 21 Feb.—Germany. *Pravda* accused the western Powers of having 'sabotaged' a possible solution to the Berlin deadlock proposed by the 'neutral committee' on currency.

22 Feb.—Army discussions in Poland (*see Poland*).

Marshal Bulganin, Minister of the Armed Forces and deputy Prime Minister, issued an order of the day on the eve of the thirty-first anniversary of the Army, calling on the armed forces in view of the U.S. 'policy of aggression' to remain constantly prepared for battle and to increase their military skill and technical knowledge.

24 Feb.—Note to U.S. Government on repatriation mission in Frankfurt (*see United States*).

27 Feb.—It was learnt that a Note had been sent to the British Embassy protesting against alleged delay in repatriating Soviet citizens from Germany and Austria.

28 Feb.—Note to Sweden on refugees (*see Sweden*).

1 Mar.—Prices of food, clothing, and other goods were reduced by 10 to 30 per cent. A broadcast announcing the decree said that the reductions would have to be covered by 'a number of economic measures in spite of serious difficulties that will have to be overcome in doing so'.

2 Mar.—Rejection of Note (*see Sweden*).

2 Mar.—An article in *New Times* alleged that displaced persons in Britain were working in conditions similar to those 'in Hitler's concentration camps', and rejected the British and U.S. proposals for an international commission to study Soviet forced labour camps. There was no secret about these camps where 'a small category of people' were punished by compulsory labour for crimes against society and violations of the law. Their working conditions were excellent.

VATICAN. 20 Feb.—The Pope addressing a large crowd in St Peter's Square denounced the sentence on Cardinal Mindszenty as 'one link in the long chain of persecution which certain dictatorial States' were

carrying out against the Church. The persecutors were the modern disciples of Nero.

YUGOSLAVIA. 17 Feb.—Czechoslovak Note replying to protest (*see Czechoslovakia*).

18 Feb.—M. Penezic, Minister of the Interior of the Serbian Republic, told the Serbian Parliament that the Cominform States were intensifying their efforts to cause unrest in the country. Twenty agents who had recently crossed the frontier, mainly from Bulgaria and Hungary, had been arrested and 'certain foreign representatives' were spreading anti-Government propaganda.

21 Feb.—A trial was opened in Belgrade of ten people accused of plotting an armed revolt against the Government the previous September.

24 Feb.—Statement of claims on Austria (*see Council of Foreign Ministers*).

27 Feb.—The press announced that no reparations payments had been received from Hungary since the publication of the Cominform resolution attacking Yugoslavia.

1 Mar.—A trade agreement with Czechoslovakia was signed in Belgrade providing for the import of Czechoslovak manufactured goods in exchange for Yugoslav agricultural produce, foodstuffs, and certain raw materials.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Mar. — Conference on World Peace called by the U.S. National Council of the Arts, Sciences, and Professions, New York.
- ,, 21 U.N. Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East. Place undetermined.
- ,, 21 U.N. Economic Commission for Europe, Geneva.
- ,, 21 Conference between Palestine Conciliation Commission and Arab Countries, Beirut.
- ,, 28 Inter-American Economic Conference, Buenos Aires.
- ,, 29 I.R.O. General Council, Geneva.
- ,, 30 General Elections, Burma.
- ,, 31 Entry of Newfoundland into the Confederation of Canada.
- April — International Socialist Conference, Copenhagen.
- Meeting of Foreign Ministers of Brussels Treaty, Luxembourg.
- ,, 1 Further session of the U.N. General Assembly, Lake Success.
- ,, 6 Economic Conference of the European Movement, London.
- ,, 8 Meeting of Contracting Parties of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, Annecy.
- ,, 19 Republic of Ireland Act comes into force.
- ,, 26 Conference of Liberal Parties of countries taking part in Marshall Plan.
- May 10 South Pacific Commission, Noumea, New Caledonia.
- ,, 29 U.N. Economic Commission for Latin America, Havana.
- June — U.N. Conference on the conservation and utilization of the World's Resources, Lake Success.
- ,, 8 I.L.O. Conference, Geneva.
- ,, 13 F.A.O. Council, Paris.
- ,, 20 U.N. World Health Assembly, Rome.
- ,, 29 World Congress of World Federation of Trade Unions, Milan.
- Aug. 21 General Assembly of Liberal International, Versailles.